

A Level

English

Session: 1974
Type: Syllabus
Code: 800

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Advanced Level. 800

Eight papers (Papers 800/1-8) and a Special Paper (Paper 800/0) will be set as under. Candidates will be required to offer three of Papers 1 to 8, including at least one of Papers 2 and 3.

800/1. Critical Appreciation and Comment (2½ hours).

800/2. Shakespeare (2½ hours).

800/3. Chaucer and other Major Authors (2½ hours).

800/4. The Renaissance Period (2½ hours).

800/5. The Period 1660-1780 (2½ hours).

800/6. The Period 1780-1832 (2½ hours).

800/7. Literature of the Victorian Age (2½ hours).

800/8. English Literature since 1900 (2½ hours).

PAPER 800/1. CRITICAL APPRECIATION AND COMMENT. 2½ hours.

The paper will consist of three compulsory questions, each based on a passage or passages of prose or poetry, which may take a single passage for comment or more than one passage for comment and comparison. Questions may contain alternative sections. The intention of the questions is to test the candidate's ability to read literature critically: he will be required to organise his response to unseen passages and to present that response as clearly and directly as possible. The questions will be of a kind to allow the candidate's sensibility full play, and will not limit themselves merely to comprehension or paraphrase.

Neither prose nor poetry from before 1550 will be set. Specimen poetry questions are available on request.

PAPER 800/2. SHAKESPEARE. 2½ hours.

Tragedy: *Coriolanus*; *King Lear*;

Comedy: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; ¹*The Winter's Tale*;

History: ¹*King John*.

Candidates must offer a minimum of two plays, of which one must be a tragedy and the other either a comedy or a history; they may offer three or four plays if they wish. They must answer one question from Section A and two questions from Section B. (See note on editions on p. 9.)

Section A. Questions requiring explanation, comment and appreciation on passages from the plays prescribed. Two passages from each play will be set, and candidates will be required to answer on two of these, one from a tragedy and one from either a comedy or a history.

Section B. General questions on the significance, subject-matter and dramatic qualities of the plays prescribed.

¹ Set for 1973.

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PAPER 800/3. CHAUCER AND OTHER MAJOR AUTHORS. 2½ hours.

Candidates will be required to offer the Chaucer text and any two of the other prescribed texts. Questions will require explanation, comment, appreciation and, where appropriate, paraphrasing. General essay questions also will be set on all the prescribed texts.

Candidates will be required to answer the question involving explanation, comment etc. on the Chaucer text and on one other text, and to answer two essay questions.

The prescribed texts are as follows:

²Chaucer, ¹*The Franklin's Tale* ;

Jane Austen, ¹*Emma* ;

Byron, ¹*Don Juan*, Books I-IV (ed. Dorsch, Routledge) ;

Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* ;

Wilfred Owen, *Poems* (ed. E. Blunden, Chatto) or *Collected Poems* (ed. C. Day Lewis, Chatto) ;

Henry James, ¹*Portrait of a Lady*.

PAPERS 800/4-8. GENERAL NOTE

General questions on the literary background of the period under study will be set, as well as questions on the prescribed works or authors. Only one such question may be answered in any one paper.

PAPER 800/4. THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD. 2½ hours.

Candidates must offer a minimum of four texts and will be required to answer four questions, at least two of which must be from Section (i), (Drama). (See also General Note above.)

Section (i) (Drama)

Middleton, *A Trick to Catch the Old One* ;

Gammer Gurton's Needle (Available in *Five Pre-Shakespearean Comedies*,—World Classics) ;

Chapman, ¹*Bussy D'Ambois* ;

Ford, ¹*'Tis Pity She's a Whore* ;

Marlowe, ¹*Tamburlaine Part I*.

Section (ii) (Poetry and Prose)

²Shakespeare, *Sonnets* ;

Walton's, *Lives* ;

Marlowe and Chapman, ¹*Hero and Leander* ;

Donne, ¹*Songs and Sonets* ;

¹*A Preface to Bacon* (ed. Dixon, Hutchinson).

Candidates offering Paper 800/4 may find *Picture Source Book, Sixteenth Century*, by M. Harrison and M. E. Bryant (Allen and Unwin), and Allardyce Nicoll, *The Elizabethans* (C.U.P.) useful for background information.

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² See note on editions under English Literature (p. 9).

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PAPER 800/5. THE PERIOD 1660-1780. 2½ hours.

Candidates must offer a minimum of four authors or texts and will be required to answer four questions. (See also General Note on p. 12.)

Johnson, *Selected Writings* (ed. Cruttwell, Penguin) ;

¹*Dryden* (ed. Sharrock, Heinemann) ;

Swift, ¹*Gulliver's Travels* ;

Fielding, *Tom Jones* ;

Goldsmith (ed. Jeffares, Macmillan) ;

¹*Pope* (ed. Weekes and Mutter, Chatto and Windus) ;

¹*Poetry of the Augustan Age* (ed. Ross, Longman) ;

Five Restoration Tragedies (Dobrée, Oxford).

PAPER 800/6. THE PERIOD 1780-1832. 2½ hours.

Candidates must offer a minimum of four texts, and will be required to answer four questions. (See also General Note on p. 12.)

Shelley, *Selections* (ed. Welland, Hutchinson) ;

Blake, ¹*Selected Poems* (ed. Gardner, U.L.P.) ;

Clare (Robinson and Summerfield, Oxford) ;

Wordsworth, ¹*Poems of the Imagination* (As printed in *Wordsworth, Oxford Standard Authors & Wordsworth, Poetical Works*, Oxford Paperback) ;

Jane Austen, ¹*Sense and Sensibility* ;

James Hogg, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* ;

Peacock, *Nightmare Abbey and Crotchet Castle* (to be counted as one text).

PAPER 800/7. LITERATURE OF THE VICTORIAN AGE. 2½ hours.

Candidates will be required to answer four questions on four of the prescribed authors or anthologies. (See also General Note on p. 12.)

¹Browning ;

Tennyson, *Selected Poems* (ed. Millgate, New Oxford English Series) ;

¹*Seven Victorian Poets* (Arnold, the Rossettis, Swinburne) (ed. Wright, Heinemann).

Dickens, ¹*Little Dorrit* ;

George Eliot, ¹*Felix Holt* ;

E. Gosse, ¹*Father and Son* ;

Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* ;

Hindle Wakes (Houghton) and
The Voysey Inheritance (Granville-Barker) ; } Available in *Late Victorian Plays*,
ed. Rowell, O.U.P.

¹Any play by Shaw ;

¹Any play by Wilde.

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PAPER 800/8. ENGLISH LITERATURE SINCE 1900. 2½ hours.

Candidates must answer four questions on a minimum of four authors. At least two must be chosen from Section (i). (See also General Note on p. 12.)

Section (i)

Conrad, *Under Western Eyes*;

V. Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*;

Frost, *Selected Poems* or Thom Gunn, *The Sense of Movement* and Ted Hughes, *Lupercal*.

T. S. Eliot, *Selected Poems* (Faber & Faber).

Section (ii)

Katherine Mansfield, ^{1,2}*In a German Pension*;

O'Casey, ^{1,2}*Three Plays* (Juno and the Paycock, The Shadow of a Gunman, The Plough and the Stars) (Macmillan);

Arnold Bennett, *The Old Wives' Tale*;

Forster, *Two Cheers for Democracy*.

Candidates offering Paper 800/8 may find the following useful for background reading: R. Hoggart, *The Uses of Literacy*; Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society*; G. S. Fraser, *The Modern Writer and His World*; Douglas Brown, *A Book of Modern Prose*; Julian Huxley, *Essays of a Humanist*.

Special Paper

Paper 800/0 (3 hours) will be divided into two parts, as shown below; candidates will be required to answer three questions in all, one from Part I and two from Part II.

Part I. Practical criticism. This section will contain unprepared passages of literary prose and verse for exposition, comment, or comparison. The passages may be drawn from any period of English literature after 1300 but, when passages are set from the period 1300–1600, alternative passages from a later period will also be set. Candidates may choose either the prose or the verse passage.

Part II. Questions on literary topics and themes of general interest in the study of English literature from Chaucer to the present day. Questions on particular aspects of the work of Chaucer and Shakespeare will be included, but the remaining questions will not invite answers based on the work of individual writers. Candidates will be asked to discuss issues which might arise from any of the various literary genres—drama, lyrical poetry, the novel, for instance—without

¹ Set for 1973.

² Owing to a rearrangement in the division of this syllabus into sections, some texts which were in Section (i) in 1973 will be in Section (ii) in 1974.

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necessarily restricting their attention to a specified literary period. Such questions will be pointed towards reading outside the A-Level syllabus, and will encourage the candidate to relate what he has learned by detailed study of prescribed texts with a wider critical appreciation of literature.

(Specimen questions are available on request.)